**Ecosystem Investigation**

**Materials:**

* Science Journals and pencil
* Outdoor Grassland area
* String to make a 3 X 3 square area
* Magnifying glass
* Thermometer

**Procedure:**

* With your partner locate a small patch of grassland to examine. Don’t bunch up all in one area.
* Use string to partition a segment 3 feet by 3 feet square.
* Record all observations about your ecosystem in your journals. Include all living and non-living things. Be sure to provide a sketch of some of the main species you find in your journal
* Record temperatures in your ecosystem segment.
* Think about what you would find underground in this segment. Record these thoughts in your journals

**Conclusions:**

* Consider the variety of living and non-living things in your ecosystem. Which was the largest population?
* How are needs for survival being met in your ecosystem? Air? Food? Water? Sunlight?
* What did you expect to find that was not there?

**Critical Thinking:**

* How would this activity be different in a different ecosystem? In an urban area? Brainstorm ideas with your partner and record them in your journals
* Think of other populations that could survive in your ecosystem. Think of populations that could not.